

Now it falls to us, all those in Israel, throughout the Middle East, and around the world who yearn for and love peace to make sure it doesn't happen.

Yitzhak Rabin was my partner and my friend. I admired him, and I loved him very much. Because words cannot express my true feelings, let me just say, *shalom, chaver, goodbye, friend*.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:48 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Rabin's widow, Leah.

Proclamation 6848—Death of Yitzhak Rabin

November 4, 1995

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Today a senseless act of violence has robbed the United States of a close friend and robbed the world of a statesman and courageous champion of peace.

Yitzhak Rabin was a brave man who defended his country for half a century and whose vision and tenacity brought the world closer to peace.

He was a man of hope, a man of wisdom, a man who sought to improve the lives of all those he touched.

The peace process that he began will be his legacy. The people of the United States and the peace-loving people of the world are determined that the peace process will go forward.

As a mark of respect for the memory of Yitzhak Rabin and America's support for peace in the Middle East, I hereby order that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until his interment. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States Embassies, legations, consular offices,

and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:26 a.m., November 6, 1995]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 7.

Statement of Condolence on the Death of Prime Minister Rabin

November 5, 1995

Prime Minister Rabin gave his life to Israel, first as a soldier for its freedom, then finally as a martyr for its lasting peace.

For his example, his friendship to the United States, and his warm friendship to me, I am eternally grateful.

William J. Clinton

NOTE: The President inscribed this statement in a condolence book at the Israeli Embassy. An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

Exchange With Reporters Aboard Air Force One

November 5, 1995

Death of Prime Minister Rabin of Israel

Q. This is quite a President gathering, Mr. President, your thoughts as the flight of this—

President Clinton. We're all going to pay our respects to Prime Minister Rabin. We all knew him. And we're going to express our support for Israel and for the peace process.

Q. President Carter said the other day when he was being interviewed that he thought, given the circumstances, there logically enough would be a pause, not a pause in peacemaking but a reflective pause, and then, of course, the process should gather again. How quickly do you think the Israelis can pull themselves together?